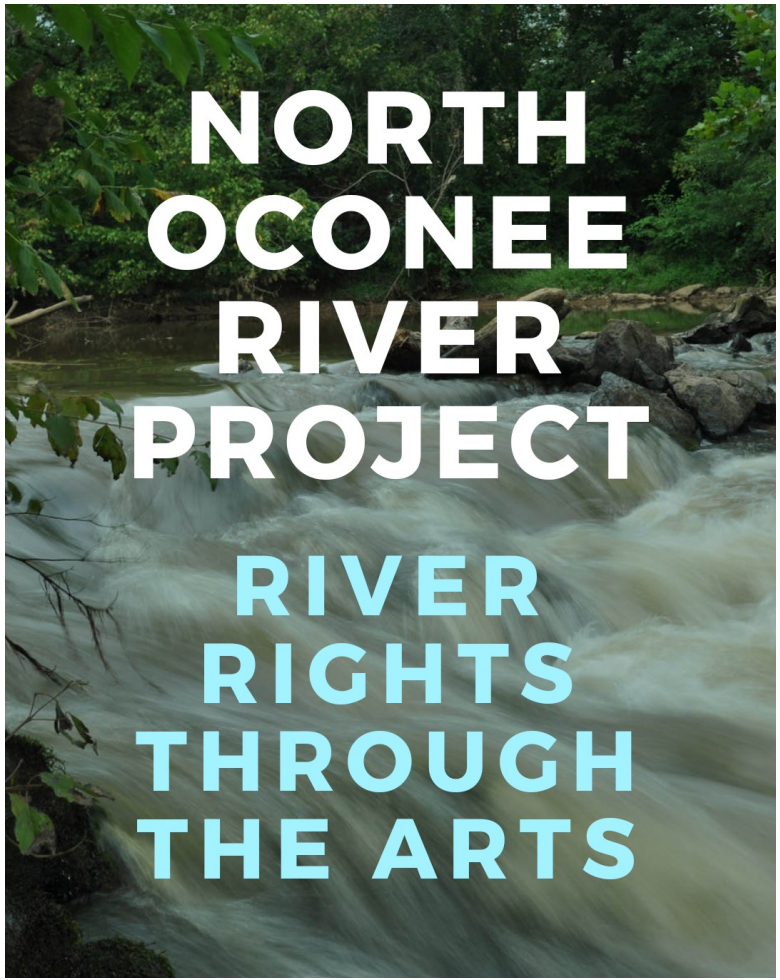

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ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS
IN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

a2ru National Conference 2017

Carla Cao

Suzie Henderson

Carla Cao
MM in Music Composition;
Graduate Research Assistant for
Ideas for Creative Exploration
University of Georgia

Nima Hamidi
PhD in Music Composition
MS in Computer Science
University of Iowa

Suzie Henderson
BS in Ecology
Minor in Horticulture
University of Georgia

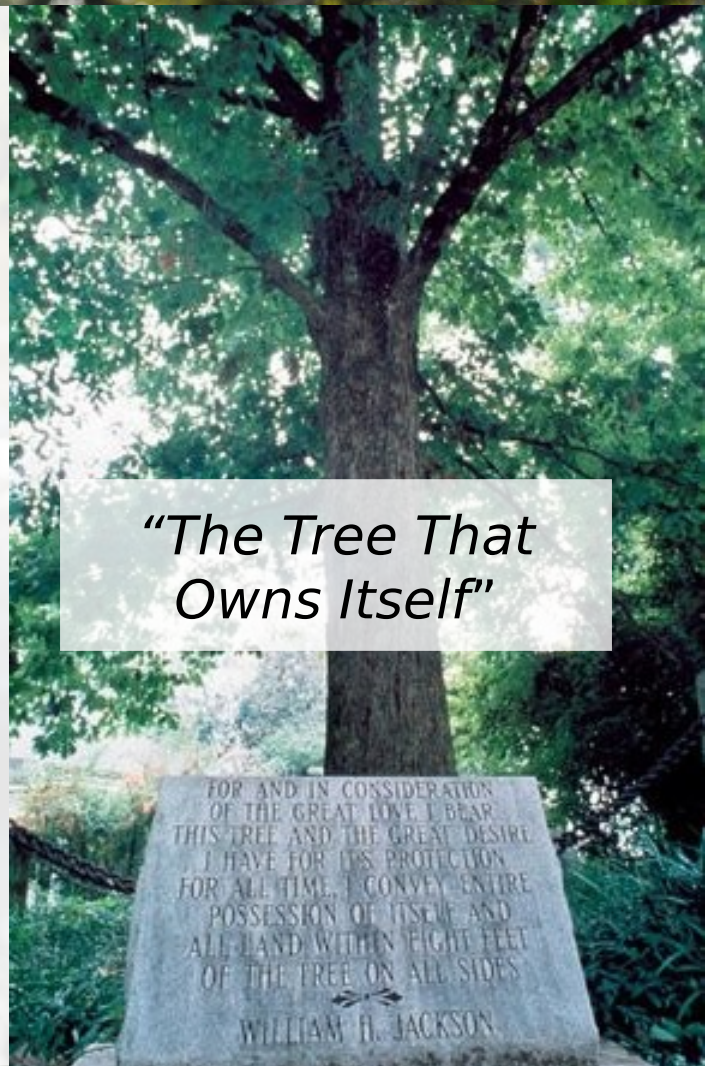
Berea Antaki
MS in Textiles and Merchandising
University of Georgia

Iva DImitrova
BS Mass Media Arts
University of Georgia

“Our mission is to engage artists, the local community of Athens, GA, and legal experts in drafting a local law that recognizes the inherent right of the North Oconee River to thrive and be healthy.”
NORTH OCONEE RIVER PROJECT

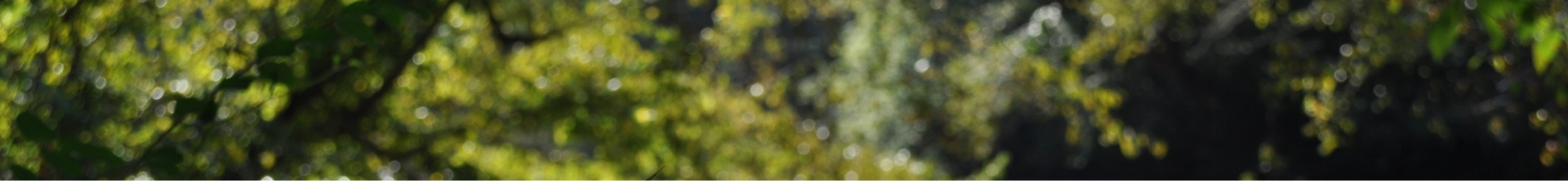
OUR INSPIRATION

- Ecovention (art that transforms ecosystem)
- University of Georgia:
  Arts + Environment collaborations
- Community Rights Movement
  and Rights of Nature


"The Tree That Owns Itself"
FOR AND IN CONSIDERATION
OF THE GREAT LOVE I BEAR
THIS TREE AND THE GREAT DESIRE
I HAVE FOR ITS PROTECTION
FOR ALL TIME, I CONVEY ENTIRE
POSSESSION OF ITSELF AND
ALL LAND WITHIN EIGHT FEET
OF THE TREE ON ALL SIDES
WILLIAM H. JACKSON

2ru.org/knowledgebase/a2ru-awards-student-challenge-grants-emerging-creatives/

- **Emerging Creatives Summit,** *WATER: New Directions Through Arts and Science*
- **a2ru Student Challenge Grant (2017)**



Sponsorship and Support

This project is made possible by the support of the Alliance for the Arts in Research Universities (a2ru), Ideas for Creative Exploration (ICE), Watershed UGA, and Willson Center for Humanities and Arts at the University of Georgia.

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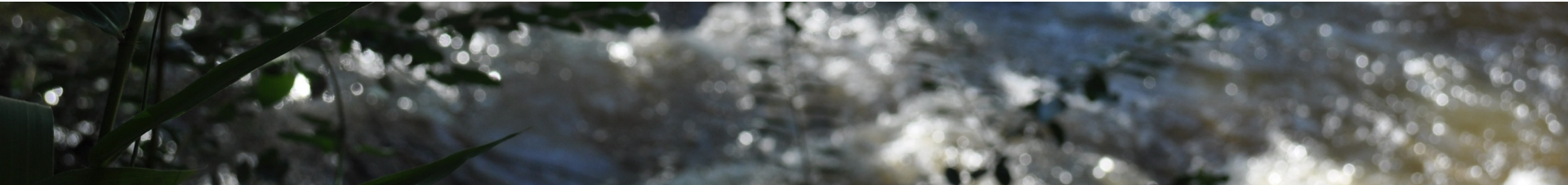
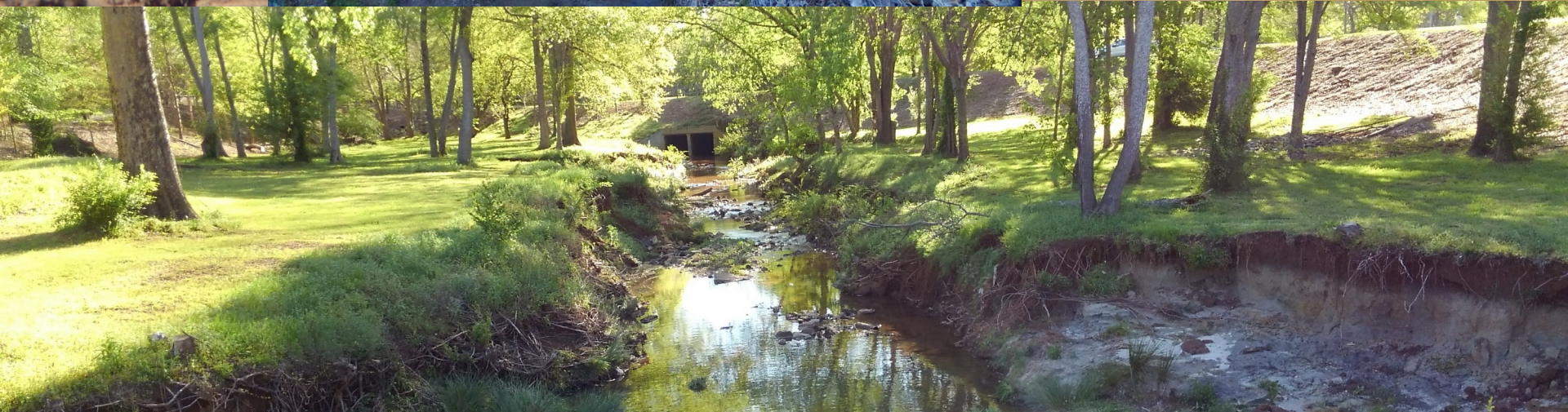
ice

Watershed UGA
A living laboratory transforming campus and community through teaching, research, and service

Willson Center
for humanities & arts



North Oconee River: Issues and Concerns



WHY RIGHTS OF NATURE?

- No movement without rights
  https://youtu.be/CjLChnUyUcA?t=1126
- Nature as rights-bearing ecosystem vs. Nature as property
- If corporations are legal persons, so must be natural ecosystems.
- All law suit proceeds used directly for restoration
- Residents can enforce rights on behalf of the river

RIGHTS OF NATURAL COMMUNITIES IN LAW

Pittsburgh's Community Protection from Natural Gas Extraction Ordinance:

Rights of Natural Communities

(b) Rights of Natural Communities. Natural communities and ecosystems, including, but not limited to, wetlands, streams, rivers, aquifers, and other water systems, possess inalienable and fundamental rights to exist and flourish within the City of Pittsburgh. Residents of the City shall possess legal standing to enforce those rights on behalf of those natural communities and ecosystems.

People's Right to Self-Government

The foundation for the making and adoption of this law is the people's fundamental and inalienable right to govern themselves, and thereby secure their rights to life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness. Any attempts to use other units and levels of government to preempt, amend, alter, or overturn this Ordinance, or parts of this Ordinance, shall require the City Council to hold public meetings that explore the adoption of other measures that expand local control and the ability of residents to protect their fundamental and inalienable right to self-government. Such consideration may include actions to separate the municipality from the other levels of government used to preempt, amend, alter, or overturn the provisions of this Ordinance or other levels of government used to intimidate the people of the City of Pittsburgh or their elected officials.

Enforcement

(c) Any City resident shall have the authority to enforce this Ordinance through an action in equity brought in the Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County. In such an action, the resident shall be entitled to

EXECUTION AND TIMELINE

Summer 2017

- Established team objectives, roles, and perspective
- Launched transmedia platform

Fall 2017

- Community Organizing
- Introductory Community Rights Workshop
- Recruited artists

Spring 2018

- Draft rights of nature law with CELDF attorney, Georgia attorney, and community members
- Exhibition of rights of nature law-art
- Town hall meeting inviting local gov't representatives
- Water quality test (with additional funding)

INTRODUCTORY COMMUNITY RIGHTS WORKSHOP

STATE BOTANICAL GARDEN OF GEORGIA
GARDENSIDE ROOM

OCTOBER 25th
6-9PM

PAUL CIENFUEGOS
Community Rights Movement activist,
National spokesperson

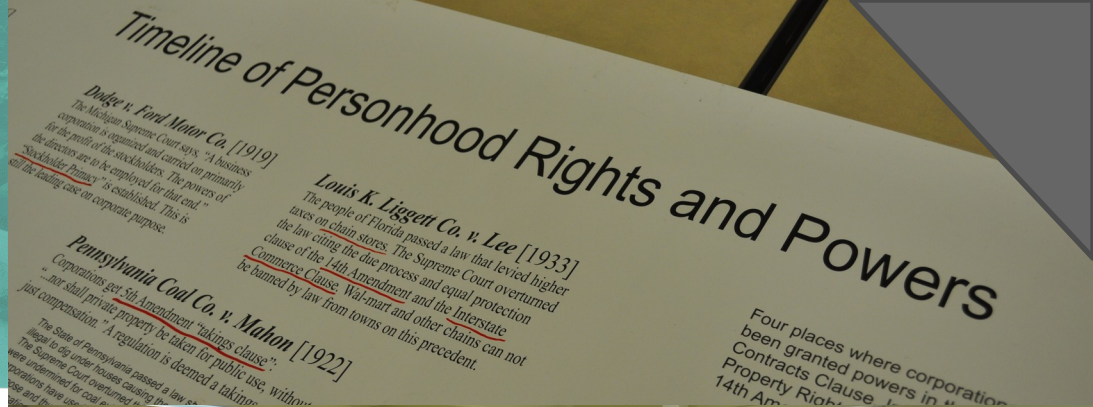
Paul Cienfuegos will lead a workshop introducing the strategies and history of the Community Rights Movement to Athens, GA.

The Community Rights Movement works to dismantle corporate constitutional "rights" and to assert the people's inherent right to govern themselves and nature's inherent right to thrive.

FREE, LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE.
REGISTER ONLINE:
tinyurl.com/CienfuegosWorkshop

Visit our Facebook page:
North Oconee River Project

SUPPORTED BY a²ru ALLIANCE FOR THE ARTS IN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES · ICE · Watershed UGA · Willson Center for humanities & arts


Timeline of Personhood Rights and Powers
Dodge v. Ford Motor Co. [1919]
Louis K. Liggett Co. v. Lee [1933]
Pennsylvania Coal Co. v. Mahon [1922]
Four places where corporation
been granted powers in
Contracts Clause
Property

1ST U.S. RIGHTS OF NATURE SYMPOSIUM

TULANE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2017

EVOLUTION OF THE NORTH OCONEE RIVER PROJECT

From “Granting rights” to “Recognizing rights” to “Blessings of Nature”(Bill Greendeer from Ho-Chunk Nation in WI)

- Transformational as opposed to representational art
- Looking at disciplines through the lens of other disciplines:

  - Composers who compose laws
  - Artists who organize court hearings and town hall meetings as performance art
  - Ecologists who aesthetically perform research

THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

- Finding an attorney in the State of Georgia to draft a “rights of nature” law
- Understanding and reconciling UGA state law vs local law
- Acquiring funding for legal fees and water quality testing

“What I’m struggling with is whether I can in good faith draft an ordinance that is very likely invalid under state and federal law.”

a attorney from Athens, GA

What can universities do to help?

- Art administrators and professors can explore the notion of policy and community organizing as art or part of the artistic process
- Admins. and profs. can offer more support for student researchers concerned with promoting a cause and unafraid to take a stance.
- Integrate community at every step

THANK YOU

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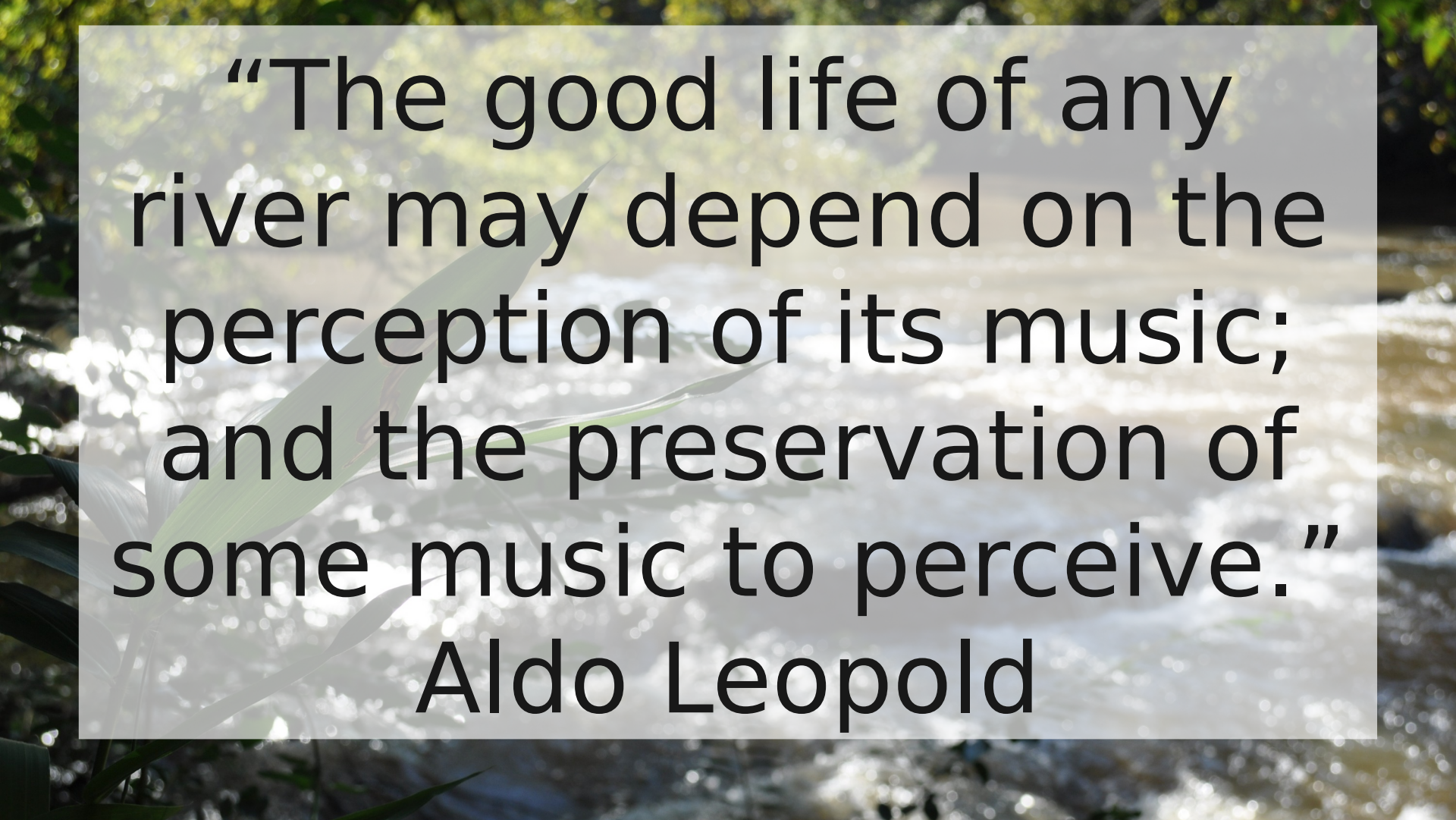
SPECIAL THANKS TO MARK CALLAHAN, PAUL CIENFUEGOS, AND THE COMMUNITY OF ATHENS, GA.


“The good life of any river may depend on the perception of its music; and the preservation of some music to perceive.”
Aldo Leopold